

## REMARKS

Responsive to the restriction requirement, applicants elect Species VI, Claims 1-3 and 9-11 of the present application for further prosecution. The rest of the claims have been canceled.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,742,550 to Mann. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims and submit the following.

Referring to FIGURE 6A of the present application, the invention as recited in amended Claim 1 is directed to a device wherein two lines, 48 and 56, are respectively extending along the periphery of a sheet portion (not shown) by forming *two separate loops such that each loop circumscribes the periphery of the sheet portion*.

On the other hand, in Mann, referring to its Figures 1 and 5, a net 8 is supported by four discrete elements. These are: a pair of inner bows 4 to which the net 8 is secured, and a pair of outer bows 6 fastened to the inner bows 4 and collapsible therewith. (Col. 1, lines 20-23.) The two pairs of bows (i.e., two inner bows 4 and two outer bows 6) are secured together and in alignment at one end portions by rivets 7 (Col. 2, lines 71-77). The other end portions of these four bows are each provided with openings 9, the set of openings in each inner bow being aligned with a like set of openings in the contacting outer bow, and are secured to a block 10 by screws 11 (Col. 1, lines 77-84). Therefore, in Mann, the net 8 is supported by four discrete elements (two inner bows and two outer bows) that are secured together by means of the rivets 7 and the screws 11. As such, Mann does not disclose a device wherein two lines are used to respectively extend along the periphery of a sheet by forming *two separate loops such that each loop circumscribes the periphery of the sheet portion*. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted

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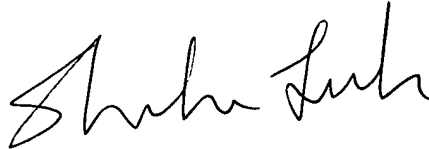
that Mann does not anticipate, nor render obvious, the present invention as recited in amended Claim 1.

Claims 2-3 and 9-11 are all dependent from amended Claim 1. Therefore, these dependent claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons why amended Claim 1 is allowable.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: June 21, 2004

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